No 45

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An

Inaugural
Dissertation
on
Pertussis
or
Whooping
Cough
By
Fredk: Perkins
Nov: the 4th 1822.

Passed March 13th. 1823

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This is of comparatively modern date, it was first noticed by Willis towards the close of the 17th century, This disease is commonly epidemic or more properly endemic, attacking certain neighbourhoods at different periods, I do not consider the whooping cough to be contagious or Infectious, but arising from miasma or vapour which is impregnated with deleterious quality which so sensibly affects the Bronchiæ, or acts peculiar to its self on that important organ of respiration, we know that effluvia arising from vegetable matter produces different fevers at different periods and acts more or less as an endemic it often appears suddenly in the country, without any obvious cause, and prevails throughout neighbourhoods of considerable extent, where the inhabitants are thinly settled - and the persons have no communication with each other - In these instances it frequently attacks, at the same time families remotely situated between which no kind of intercourse exists - The disease must therefore be originated from the

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Atmosphere - but as my observations have not been sufficient as yet to prove the origin of the disease - it is always the safest practice to act as if we were under the impression that it is contagious & therefore when consulted, should always advise those that are not labouring under the disease to be removed out of the neighbourhood of those that are affected, Much difference of opinion exists as to the true nature of its pathology - some are of opinion that it is located in the air cells of the lungs. some in the Bronchiae & others in the alimentary canal: There are also a great diversity of opinions about the nature of the disease: whilst some are of opinion that it is spasmodic, others that it is inflammatory - A very able man Dr Watt of Glasgow has lately taken up the subject - and after repeated post mortem examinations & close and very strict investigations of the disease, comes to the conclusion that it is altogether a spasmodic affection - The whooping cough usually begins with hoarseness A

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cough similar to common catarrh, with sometimes a slight fever. This cough becomes by degrees more harsh - and on inspiration a ringing sound is occasionly perceived - frequently there are intervals of several days in the early stage of the disease, that the cough is attended with no sonorous inspiration or atleast with very little, The cough will appear peculiar in its violence, and by the convulsive rapidity of the inspirations threatening suffocation - In many cases these convulsive efforts alone mark the disease - frequently the whooping never occurs - The violence of the cough frequently brings on vomiting, which terminates the fit, and is a favourable sign. I have more frequently seen the paroxism end in an expectoration of mucus from the Bronchiæ - but it is generally attended with more difficulty. it is almost constantly observable that within two or three minutes after a violent fit a slighter will occur, A circumstance which points out the disease at a very early period; The duration of the complaint is various, it generally continues

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from eight to ten weeks, and it often recurs with violence after it has appeared to remit, and almost to vanish: This sometimes proceeds from the damp atmosphere = but frequently happens from some unknown cause = the danger appears indeed always to be in proportion to the youth of the person. I have known it to prove very hurtful to suckling children: Owing to the inability of the the childs not possessing that degree of strength which is necessary for the expectoration of that coagulable mucus in Trachea; It has been supposed by some that suckling children are the most proper subjects for the disease as they have so frequently an involuntary vomiting = and I have no doubt when that is the case, it generally proves mild; The whooping cough has been known in some instances to terminate in apoplexy and suffocation = in some it lays the foundation for asthma and Phthisis Pulmonalis. If the fits are put an end to by vomiting it may be considered as a favourable symptom, as may likewise the taking place of a moderate and full expectoration

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In many of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] of those who have died of whooping cough [illegible] that the [illegible] of the organs of respiration were [illegible] affected, and particularly those parts which are the seat of catarrh. [illegible] the mucous membrane of the trachea and bronchia are commonly found in a [illegible] state. In many instances the lungs have exhibited highly morbid appearances, the trachea and its ramifications bearing vestiges of recent inflammation and the air cells and bronchia [illegible] [illegible] filled with a whitish frothy [illegible] mucus. Serous accumulation in the pericardium is [illegible] [illegible] in some instances the lungs have been found adhering to the pleura. When the disease has been very protracted or has degenerated into [illegible] [illegible] asthma, [illegible] [illegible] the glands of the mesentery are found in a [illegible] and [illegible] state. In the treatment of pertussis [illegible] indications [illegible] present themselves [illegible] in the first or [illegible] stage to moderate the violence

and palliate urgent symptoms: Dr Chapman's treatment
[illegible] seem to be adapted [illegible]
[illegible] be denied by a sound pathologist [illegible]
[illegible] must be kept back in the progress of the disease
[illegible] be necessary to apply. He is
indeed most of the modern problems [illegible]
I should judge I [illegible] other [illegible]
[illegible] and the disease must [illegible]
[illegible] days by small doses of calomel
but Chapman speaks very highly indeed of [illegible]
says it displays [illegible] specific [illegible]
what little I have seen of its [illegible]
perhaps it [illegible] sometimes [illegible]
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remedies in a great measure subsided [illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Cort Tod ℥ grs wine of Ipecac 5 gutts. Sand: 3 gutts
water ℥j. to be given every two hours to a child one
year old every. Or Cort Potash ℥j Cocinnel grs
water ℥iij Loaf sugar 6 grs a tea spoon full to be
given to a child one year old every 3 hours: These
are the prepartions we are directed to use by most of the
modern practitioners. But Dr Chapman thinks they ought
to be employed in larger quantities under certain circumstances
do. Instead when there is much constipation or
inflation. Opium exhibited either alone or in
combination with other medicines Patients are taken
& mitigates the patients sufferings; and this
is all that is to be expected from it he highly
extolls muck. But from the difficulty of getting
it pure; gives the preference to the citrate; and
I so given in the same quantities or smaller. [illegible]
[illegible] are given on a basis of [illegible] & the
antispasmodics asafoetida & indolentable to be [illegible]
[illegible]

nature. I mean Cantharides = Tincture of Bark ℥iij
Paregoric ℥ss Tincture of Cantharides ℥i = this is a
formula of Sutter who has said so much in its favour
= it has been much used in the City of Philadelphia,
and in support of Dr Physick, who says he
always cures whooping cough by causing strangury
alone = liniments of an irritating nature are very
serviceable such as the Volatile liniment Camphorated
Liniment spirits Turpentine applied to the spine
and breast = but above all the juice of garlic = what
is called the royal embrocation is very good, composed
of Tartar Emetic and Tincture of Cantharides =
The diet is to be strictly antiphlogistic = a change
of air is all important